



Recovery Planning

Recovery planning is necessary for every agency and jurisdiction at every level of government, as well as the private business sector. However, most planning that has been accomplished by governments has been in the area of disaster response. Recently, there has been a significant effort to make disaster response plans compliant with the National Incident Management System. While these response plans now are generally more detailed and robust, the majority of governments have done little or nothing to plan for disaster recovery. Recovery, like mitigation planning, is separate and distinct from response planning. The issues and disciplines involved in recovery planning are much more diverse, and recovery planning requires a dedicated effort that goes beyond the traditional Federal Emergency Management Agency recovery processes.

Our Approach

ICF International is well positioned to assist agencies, state and local governments, and private-sector organizations in the long-term recovery planning process. Working with clients, our experienced team of emergency management and land use planners and advisors applies successful solutions to the planning process.

Our approach begins by understanding the geopolitical situation of clients within their regional setting. Recovery planning must take a holistic approach in order to accommodate the interdependencies that exist within modern society. The potential for catastrophic events is a driving force for recovery planning. The lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina and the 9/11 attacks show that any scenario is possible and we must collectively plan for worst-case disasters.

In disasters, the damages to critical infrastructure can be the most significant impact that government must manage. Because 85 percent of the nation's critical infrastructure is in the private sector, recovery planning must be accomplished via a public-private partnership.

ICF's specialists provide a comprehensive understanding of the complex issues facing regions as they begin the planning process. For instance, identifying the interdependencies that exist within a region can help guide recovery planning. These interdependencies will become evident by conducting facilitated planning sessions with both public and private organizations together.

Recovery planning must include:

- Transportation
- Communications
- Potential for urban renewal
- Utilities
- Housing
- Medical
- Economic recovery
- Long-term mitigation

Communities and regions benefit most from working with ICF before a disaster to set goals and priorities that include demolishing, relocating, or upgrading facilities. Having a recovery plan in place before a catastrophic event will lay the groundwork for establishing a recovery task force early so that even while the response phase is still underway, communities and regions can start the disaster recovery process.



"I have frequently heard from the FEMA regions just how pleased they are about the support they too have received from ICF. You have enabled us to work together to provide outstanding support to the State and local communities"

Featured Solutions

The following program descriptions highlight several key experience areas where ICF has had an impact in the development of recovery planning programs. These programs represent some of the ways in which ICF is making a difference in protecting and enhancing the quality of life.

The Road Home Housing Program, State of Louisiana Office of Community Development

In June 2006, ICF and its team of subcontractors was selected to manage the implementation of The Road Home Housing Program, a federally funded initiative of the State of Louisiana that was developed to help the affected population repair, rebuild, or relocate by reimbursing as much as \$150,000 to each qualified homeowner and small rental unit landlord for their uninsured, uncompensated damages following the devastation of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

With more than 123,000 homes and 82,000 rental units in Louisiana damaged or destroyed, a housing assistance program of such scope and complexity had never before been attempted. The challenge of setting up and managing a large program with many components and different functional areas necessitated establishing a program infrastructure able to quickly generate homeowner closings and financial assistance. Our contract reflected this level of complexity, with an initial agreed completion date for homeowner closings of January 2008 (30 months).

In the first 4-month phase of the contract, ICF established a Program Management Office and hired more than 1,500 employees to launch the program. ICF opened a project office headquarters and 12 new housing assistance centers throughout the state. In addition, we set up a data center and designed, programmed, and implemented a grants management system, issue tracking system, and large data warehouse. ICF also acquired and transitioned a full-service call center staffed by 200 employees in Baton Rouge.

During the first 60 days, the ICF team clarified and codified hundreds of program policy issues and procedures to meet federal and state standards for this \$8.5 billion program. The ICF team also developed and delivered a training curriculum to more than 1,300 housing advisors, supervisors, home evaluators, homeowner construction representatives, and others. The ICF team established a pilot program to test the entire application process before scaling it to the expected applicant population of more than 100,000. The pilot center opened for business less than 2 weeks after contract signing.

Recovery Planning, Federal Emergency Management Agency

ICF provided community and economic planning to support the long-term recovery of communities battered by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As a subcontractor to DMJM, one of three Technical Assistance Contract providers, ICF deployed 11 senior planners to the Gulf region who analyzed housing and economic data; facilitated community meetings; identified priority investment projects; and met with local businesses, government leaders, and citizen's groups in order to prepare recovery plans. The community planning work also included development of tool kits and resources to help residents and businesses make informed choices about how best to begin the rebuilding process. Through participation in the long-term recovery process, ICF gained first-hand knowledge of how ESF-14: Long Term Recovery works, as well as its benefits, pitfalls, and areas for improvement. ICF also performed similar work in Florida after the storms of 2004.

About ICF International

ICF International (NASDAQ: ICFI) partners with government and commercial clients to deliver consulting services and technology solutions in the energy, environment, transportation, social programs, defense, and homeland security markets. The firm combines passion for its work with industry expertise and innovative analytics to produce compelling results throughout the entire program lifecycle, from analysis and design through implementation and improvement. Since 1969, ICF has been serving government at all levels, major corporations, and multilateral institutions. More than 2,500 employees serve these clients worldwide.

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